

Message Text

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ACTION PA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 DRC-01 SS-15 SP-02 H-01 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1377

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 4116

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AINF, PINT, ELAB, HO

SUBJ: CLEARANCE OF "FOREIGN RELATIONS," 1952-1954,
VOLUME IV

REF: STATE A-2841

1. BEFORE APPROACHING MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO CALL DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION TO PROBABILITY THAT PUBLICATION OF DOCUMENT ENCLOSED IN REFERENCED AIRGRAM WOULD WEAKEN DEMOCRATIC ELEMENTS OF HONDURAN LABOR MOVEMENT. SPLIT BETWEEN COMMUNIST AND NON-COMMUNIST LABOR FACTIONS NOTED IN DOCUMENT STILL EXISTS AND LATTER (THOUGH STILL STRONGEST OVERALL) IS VERY MUCH ON DEFENSIVE NOW, E.G., LATE OSCAR GALE AND OTHER EARLY DEMOCRATIC LEADERS OF UNITED FRUIT BANANA WORKERS UNION STAND ACCUSED IN RECENT GOH AUDIT OF MISUSE OF FUNDS WHEN THEY WERE IN OFFICE BACK IN EARLY SIXTIES.

2. COMMUNISTS HAVE ALL ALONG INSISTED THAT THEY, NOT GALE, CELEO GONZALES AND OTHER DEMOCRATIC UNION LEADERS, WERE TRUE ORGANIZERS OF 1954 BANANA STRIKES. PUBLICATION OF GOH DOCUMENT REFERRING TO REQUEST FOR US WARSHIPS DURING STRIKE WOULD LIKELY BE USED BY THEM TO "CONFIRM" THAT VICTORY WAS "STOLEN" FROM THEM BY GOH AND HANDED TO DEMOCRATIC FACTION.

3. MANY OF THE PRINCIPALS FROM 1954 BANANA STRIKE ERA ARE STILL ACTIVE
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IN LABOR, GOVERNMENT, AND OTHER FIELDS IN HONDURAS. PUBLICATION OF REFERENCED DOCUMENT NOT ONLY LIKELY TO REOPEN OLD WOUNDS BUT ALSO RECEIVE SENSATIONAL PRESS TREATMENT HERE. RESULT WOULD BE DAMAGE TO US LABOR AND COMMERCIAL INTERESTS IN HONDURAS.

4. EMBASSY BELIEVES AMERICAN SCHOLARS WITH INTEREST IN THIS FIELD HAVE ACCESS TO DOCUMENT UNDER FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT, AND THAT

EFFORT HERE TO OBTAIN GOH DECLASSIFICATION, WHETHER SUCCESSFUL OR NOT, WOULD INEVITABLY RESULT IN KNOWLEDG OF NOTE BECOMING PUBLIC WITH COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE RESULTS DESCRIBED ABOVE. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, EMBASSY REQUESTS DEPARTMENT RECONSIDER PLANS TO PUBLISH REFERENCED DOCUMENT.

JARAMILLO

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 28 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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